Dissemination of Prohibited Quinacrine by Non-Government Organbatiens

4045. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the female sterilisation drug quinacrine has been specifically disapproved for dissemination and use by the World Health Organisation;

(b) whether Indian Council of Medical Research or the Drug Controller of India has prohibited the use of the drug for conducting clinical trials in the country;

(c) whether Government are aware hat a number of Non-Govemment Organisations, in association with some doctors in private practice, have been distributing and experimenting with this drug in different parts of the country; and

(d) the measures, if any, Government propose to stop such distribution and experiments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Medical Research in 1993-94 had initiated clinical trail with Quinacrine Pellets single instillation but was discontinued after enrolling only a total of eight cases because of high method failure rate, side effects and inadequate toxicity data on Quinacrine. Thereafter approval for clinical trials of Quinacrine Pellets has not been granted to any investigator by the Drug Controller General of India.

(c) and (d) No drug manufacturer in the country has been granted licence to manufacture quinacrine and the drug is not imported for government health set up.

There have been some reports in newspapers about dissemination/use of quinacrine by some individual doctors but no specific instance has been brought to the notice of Government.

Prescribed Standards of Mineral Water

4046. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any standards have been prescribed for packed potable waters sold under different brand names and different nomenclatures, that is mineral waters, acqua, spring water etc.;

(b) if so, the standards, particularly in terms of potability, distillation, bacteria level, mineral content etc.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that Shree Ram Institute of Industrial Research have analysed some of these waters;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the mechanism to periodically analyse the samples of these waters, and the past experience, of tests/analysis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Standards for mineral water have been prescribed under the provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 & Rules made thereunder. An extract of the standards is given in the enclosed statement (see below).

(d) and (e) Shree Ram Institute of Industrial Research has not carried out any practical estimation of constituents of various brands of bottled water including mineral water.

(f) The Food Health Authorities. of States/UTs administering the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Rules, 1955 have been requested to keep a vigil on quality of mineral water sold in the market. Survey on market samples of mineral water conducted in the cities of Calcutta, Mysore and Pune have revealed that these samples are in conformity to the prescribed standards.